



Arlington Disability Commission Agenda

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

When: Nov 16, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83630372122>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Cynthia DeAngelis, Grace Carpenter, Kerrie Fallot, Ileana Gatica, Karen Mathiasen, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher, Paul Raia

Guests: Janice Cagan-Teuber, Rebecca Gruber, Lotte Diomedede, Vicki Crosson, Travis Bagget, Makeelia Parker

Absent: Liza Molina

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (5 min)
 - a. Called to order at 4:03PM by Commissioner Parravano
 - b. Grace, paul p, Cynthia, Kerrie, mike, Ileana, paul r
 - c. Volunteers: Janice, Travis
2. Ground rules (2 min)

- a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. The co-chairs have disabilities that make it hard to deal with Zoom chat/messaging]
- 3. Approve Draft October Meeting Minutes (2 min)
 - a. Commissioner Raia moves to approve, commissioner deangelis seconds, unanimous approval
- 4. Snow clearing (10 min)
 - a. Commissioner Rademacher gave an overview of clearing. For example, if there's 5-6 inches, that will be plowed which creates barriers, piles at the curbs. There is no A or B team, just a single team of clearers that work through and after the storm. Noted that the clearing crew needs rest, then will begin clearing the next day. They focus on heavily trafficked areas – mass ave, warren, which is done at night (too many cars on the road to operate big, heavy equipment). School zones are next, immediate surrounding area, then one block out, then another. This workload can take up to a week. Crews are working multiple day and night shifts in a row. Once the primary clearing is completed they will start working on requests that come in.
 - b. Clearing schedules are based on when the storm ends, not begins. That sets the timeline for when crews can then go home and rest. Raia asked about responsibility about commercial areas such as Mass Ave. Whoever owns the property abutting the sidewalk is responsible for clearing the sidewalk. Town will assist with intersections that technically should be cleared by home or business owners. Ultimately property owners are responsible for sidewalks, not necessarily renters. MBTA is responsible for clearing bus stops, although is usually limited (small pathway from sidewalk to street). DPW will usually clear bus stops in heavy storms if MBTA does not do a sufficient job clearing.
 - c. Commissioner Gattica asked about issues around schools such as black ice and who is responsible. DPW will plow roads and major sidewalks, schools are responsible for pathways within their property. Recommend contacting principal's office for issues.
 - d. Commissioner Fallon asked about HP parking space, particularly around the snow bank from car to sidewalk. DPW will clear.
 - e. Rademacher notes we are 20% lower capacity of plows compared to last year. Statewide shortage to find plows.
- 5. Recreation
 - a. Beach wheelchairs (10 min)
 - i. Lotte Diomede joins from SMILEMass to discuss her experience with beach wheelchairs. Lotte helped with universal design playground in Sudbury, and many other communities in the area. Next moved on to helping with access to beaches. Donated 20 wheelchairs in 2010, now up to 180 chairs since. Working with areas on accessible bathhouses. SMILEMass has a loaner program for beach wheelchairs. Lotte Mobi-Mat or AccessRec floating beach wheelchairs. SMILEMass can help with beach wheelchair, acts as liaison to manufacturers, charge \$75/year for wheelchair, Town must have maintenance plan put together, SMILEMass provides yearly check-ins, some chairs have been in operation for 10 years. Even if we decide to buy our own, Lotte would be happy to act as a resource. Volunteered to inspect bathhouse, help guide with mat purchases, etc. Can offer discount if we decide to buy the chairs.
 - b. TOPSoccer (10 min)

- i. VP of Arlington Soccer Club Travis has joined to discuss his work. Largest youth organization in town, roughly 2,000 kids per season. Looking to buildout DEI within their program, have formed a DEI committee and formulated DEO work plan. Working on implementing an accessible soccer program, using US Youth Soccer Org (The Outreach Program). Designed to reach those with disabilities to participate in more conventional soccer programming. Travis attended webinars on how to start adaptive soccer programming to launch the Arlington program. Last Spring was a 4 week pilot program for children 5 to 18 years old. Initially started with 20 slots which were filled in under 24 hours, found there was a high demand. Program welcomes those from outside of Arlington as well. TOPSoccer will now be running permanent Spring and Fall sessions that will be free of charge as long as they can afford to. This Fall the program was expanded to 6 weeks, 25 participants and 50 volunteers (predominantly youth) to act as a “buddy” for the player. The buddies help guide players with activities on the field, held at Hills Hill.
 - ii. Travis asked to partner with the commission in a more formal way. Help with training buddies in how to help with players. Also help with advertising and reaching more folks who might be interested.
 - c. Robbins Farm Park (5 min)
 - i. Inclusion
 - ii. Low-vision community will benefit from curbs, tactile warning at grade changes, color-contrast wayfindings
 - iii. Neurodiverse - quiet areas
 - iv. Physical disabilities - multiple ways to get up the hill
- Inclusive
- v. Age friendly seating options with good sightlines for seniors
 - vi. ces
 - vii. Caregivers with disabilities also need access
6. Commissioner vacancy (2 min)
 - a. Commissioner DeAngels motioned to remove Commissioner Molina from the Disability Commission and fill that position, Commissioner Carpenter seconded, Commissioner Fallon opposed, all else agreed.
 - b. Tim and Jill will work with legal on next steps.
 7. Outreach working group (10 min)
 - a. Commissioner DeAngelis talked about planning an Inclusion Fest this Spring where we can bring groups in to learn about what the commission has been working on.
 - b. Working with Arlington Reads to help sponsor the event.
 - c. 2023 will be the 30th anniversary of the Disability Commission’s creation. Hoping to plan an event to celebrate.
 - d. Working on MailChimp to create a database of emails we can use for newsletters, notices, etc.
 8. Report on MOD Summit (5 min)
 - a. Commissioner Parravano discussed the grant we received for A/V equipment to be able to hold hybrid meetings.
 9. Commission communication (5 min)
 - a. Commissioner Parravano discussed how screenshots are not accessible when being sent information about groups, announcements, etc.
 - b. Going forward, commissioners will provide feedback when emails or notices

are not accessible

10. Updates (10 min)

- a. DEI
- b. DPW
- c. Voting Issues

11. Public Comment

- a. Rebecca Gruber offered help with outreach efforts in Town.

12. Next meeting Wednesday December 21, 2022 at 4PM

- a. Rademacher motioned to adjourn at 5:59PM, Carpenter seconded.

13. Closing

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.